

REMARKS

Claims 1-43 are pending in the present application. By virtue of this response, claim 6 has been cancelled, and claims 1, 3, 4, and 8 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-5 and 7-43 are currently under consideration. Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-10, 12, 15-23, 25-31, 33, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Soetemans et al. (US Publication no. 2003/0058618, hereinafter Soetemans) in view of Golden et al. (US Patent no. 6,452,924, hereinafter Golden).

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the following features related to configuration of the devices:

(g) a configuration circuit on the circuit board, wherein the configuration circuit is operable to communicate with a plug-in device in a socket to identify the plug-in device and configure the plug-in device, and the configuration circuit includes:

an instruction memory operable to store configuration instructions for configuring one or more different plug-in devices, and

a processor operable to execute the configuration instructions to communicate with a plug-in device in a socket, and configure the device,

wherein the configuration circuit includes a configuration memory operable to store configuration information for a plurality of predetermined plug-in device types, and

the configuration circuit is operable to receive the configuration associated with a device from the device, wherein executing the configuration instructions configures the device based on the configuration information

Soetemans does not disclose those configuration circuit features. Golden also fails to disclose those features, and therefore Golden fails to cure the deficiencies of Soetemans. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Soetemans and Golden.

Claim 3 has been amended to recite “wherein the configuration circuit is further operable to generate a user interface based on the component information, to cause display of the user interface, to receive a configuration command for the device via the user interface, and to configure the device based on the configuration command.” Soetemans fails to disclose the features of amended claim 3, and Golden does not disclose the features that Soetemans does not disclose. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that claim 3 is patentable over the combination of Soetemans and Golden.

Claim 4 has been amended to recite “wherein the desired functions comprise a modem function, a broadband access function, firewall security protection, a router function, a hub function, a switch function, a network-attached storage function, a printer server function, or a combination thereof.” Soetemans fails to disclose the features of amended claim 4, and Golden does not disclose the features that Soetemans does not disclose. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that claim 4 is patentable over the combination of Soetemans and Golden.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims that depend from claim 1 are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, and the rejections of the dependent claims should be withdrawn.

Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Soetemans et al. (US Patent no. 6,289,405, hereinafter Soetemans) in view of Golden et al. (US Patent no. 6,452,924, hereinafter Golden) and further in view of Trans, USPGPU no. 20020181633.

Regarding claim 13, Trans does not disclose or suggest “a switch for connecting a security module between said socket for external connection, and the local network,” as claimed. The connection between a socket for external connection and the local area network is shown in Figure 3 (see, e.g., switch network 46). Trans does not disclose or suggest such a switch. The section of Trans referenced by the Examiner, paragraph [0100], does not disclose a security module and does not appear to be related to the features of claim 13. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that Trans fails to cure the defects of Soetemans and Golden, and claim 13 is patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons given above.

Regarding claim 14, Trans does not disclose or suggest “a connection for bridging a security module between said socket for external connection, and the local network,” as claimed. Trans does not disclose such a connection. Paragraph [0100] of Trans does not disclose or suggest a security module or bridging between an external connection and a local network. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that Trans fails to cure the defects of Soetemans and Golden, and claim 14 is patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons given above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 249212014200. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: September 29, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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